

5973 N. Coatumundi Drive  
Tucson, Arizona 85750

July 10, 1999

DOCKET# 98N-1038, "Irradiation ... of Food"  
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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Please Note:

The issue of irradiating foods, for my family and our society, is of great concern to us. I cannot believe that the F.D.A. would allow for the "removing of current labeling requirements" for foods which have been irradiated.  
**DO NOT DO THIS!**

My family and neighbors would strongly urge the F.D.A. to require food processors and packagers to label their products with larger lettering than the lettering of ingredients with the word "**IRRADIATED**" or "**IRRADIATION**", and include on the packaging the 'radura symbol' to make clear to all that these products, or components, have been irradiated. Words such as "electronic pasteurization" and "cold pasteurization" are nothing more than bastardizations of the concept and tend to obfuscate rather than make clear. Instead of compromising for the benefit of trade groups, special interests and the interests of the American people, just make it clear and let consumers of food (all of us) have free choice.

And as irradiation is not the only answer to food safety problems, let's communicate to the public that cleaner slaughter operations as well as dairy and food service delivery might not have to be as stringent as it is now because of the belief (right or wrong) that the irradiating process will alleviate the need to be ever vigilant, as is now the case.

Also, the public has the right to know when their food supply has been changed from the status quo. Therefore, consumers need to be able to identify irradiated foods at supermarkets and in restaurants, so that again, they can choose to seek out irradiated foods for their perceived safety; or choose not to select such foods. At least, clearly label such foods so as to benefit both groups of consumers. And as the vast majority of people (77% - 90%) request such labeling, please respect the desires of the public with this issue rather than industry trade groups. Remember, we humans have been eating for tens of thousands of years without irradiation of food stuffs and without major health risks to the overwhelming majority of us.

In summary, if the issue is to change current wording on packaging of irradiated foods or food components, then make such statements a disclosure in easy-to-read print, and with the full radura symbol prominently displayed, so as to give people the choice to seek or not to seek out those types of foods. Also, do not make the F.D.A ruling on labeling temporary or have it lapse after a period of time - make labeling permanent.

I am sending copies of this letter to my elected representatives as they are responsible for implementing necessary legislation to see that peoples' views are fairly presented in our Nation.

So in conclusion: Foods which have been irradiated in any form should be prominently labeled, and all irradiated components of food should be identified, and for a permanent duration.

Thank-you very much

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen P. Roseman", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen P. Roseman

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